

# THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2011

Volume 51, Number 4

*on the  
inside . . .*

Spiritual Healing

✧ p. 4

Spring Musical

✧ p. 5

Easter Egg Hunt

✧ p. 14

Middle School

Lock-In

✧ p. 15

**Worship Services:**

8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

The *Voice* is a monthly publication of St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN. Articles for the *Voice* must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month:

[office@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:office@stjohns-elca.org).

For information, contact the Church Office:

**phone:** 507-645-4429

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[office@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:office@stjohns-elca.org)

**website:**

[www.stjohns-elca.org](http://www.stjohns-elca.org)

**Church office hours:**

**Mon. - Thurs.**

9:00 a.m. to noon and  
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**Friday**

9:00 a.m. to noon and  
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

## Easter Garden Orders

The Chancel Guild will be taking orders for the Easter Garden soon. Place your order on Sundays April 3, 10 or 17 between church services or call the Church Office for more information.



## Easter Breakfast is April 24!

All are welcome to St. John's Hall on Easter Sunday for a delicious breakfast of egg bake (ham, sausage, and veggie), muffins, fruit, juice, and coffee. The breakfast starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 11:00 a.m. Suggested donations at the door are \$5 per individual and \$20 per family. The breakfast is being held by St. John's youth and parents and the Youth Ministry Education Board. All funds raised above the cost of the breakfast will be used to help St. John's youth attend summer camp. Thank you for supporting St. John's youth!

## *Holy Week and Easter at St. John's*

*Sunday of the Passion, April 17*

Procession with Palms and

Holy Communion

8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

*(The Palm Sunday Liturgy begins in the courtyard. All who wish to process, gather there 5 minutes prior to worship.)*

*Wednesday, April 20*

Organ Recital for Holy Week

Dan Fenn, Organ

St. John's Sanctuary - 12:15 p.m.

*Maundy Thursday, April 21*

Holy Communion

12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

*Good Friday, April 22*

Liturgy of Good Friday

12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

*Holy Saturday, April 23*

The Great Vigil of Easter 7:30 p.m.

at Boe Chapel, St. Olaf College

(Community choir rehearsal at 6:30 in the chapel. All high school and adult singers are welcome)

*Celebration of the Resurrection  
Sunday, April 24*

8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

Holy Communion at all services

Easter Breakfast from

8:30 to 11:00 a.m.

9:30 service broadcast

on KYMN 1080 AM

# Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.  
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

## Prayer Ministry

**Gathered in the Word:** prayer using scripture as a guide. Meets Thursday, April 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All are welcome.

**Prayers:** for healing, joys, concerns, and for loved ones offered to individuals, by members of the healing prayer ministry team, after both worship services on Sunday, April 3, at the altar rail.

**Prayer Chain:** Prayer requests are welcome for any concern or thanksgiving. Requests are kept confidential and not included in Sunday morning prayers unless specifically requested. Contact Mary Cisar with a prayer request or to become a prayer chain volunteer: macisar@gmail.com or 663-1097.

*Bear one another's  
burdens, and in  
this way you will  
fulfill the law of  
Christ.*

*Galatians 6:2*



*Providing one-  
to-one care and  
encouragement*

## Stephen Ministers Commissioned in March

A new group of Stephen Ministers were commissioned to serve St. John's and the community on March 20. Since last September, Stephen Ministry class members have studied and practiced skills to prepare them to provide Christian caregiving. Those participating in the class included: Nordis Christenson, Dan Franklin, Jo Franklin, Chuck Jacobson, Kathy Mroz, Nick Neeb, Jim Rossow, Rachel Stark, Gary Wicks, and Sheri Williams.

Those who were commissioned as Stephen Ministers make a commitment to serve in that role for two years. They will meet with a care receiver on a regular basis and will attend monthly supervision meetings. Those who choose not to be commissioned continue to serve family, friends, and co-workers with the skills they have learned. St. Johns is enriched by this group and by

the 120 other St. Johns members who have received training since 1982.

Stephen Ministers meet with people in our congregation and community who are experiencing illness, grief, anxiety and stress, financial concerns, or other difficulties that come out of daily living. If you or someone you know might benefit from visiting with a Stephen Minister, please contact Joan Halvorson, 645-8445 or one of the pastors, 645-4429.

*Blessed are they who  
mourn, for they shall  
be comforted.*

*Matthew 5:4*

## Grief Support Ministry

**Northfield Grief Support Coalition:** A Grief Support Group meets this month at St. Peters Lutheran Church, Mondays through April 25, 7-8:30 p.m. For more information contact Jeannie Machacek, 645-5480.

**Save the dates:** A grief group for parents who have had a son or daughter die will be held at the Northfield United Methodist Church, Tuesdays, May 3-June 7, 7-8:30 p.m. Contact Sherri Bunch Quaas for more information, 645-4300.



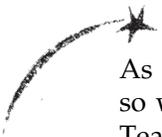
*The following St. John's members died in this month last year. We list them so that we can remember these loved ones and their families in prayer "with reverence and affection."*

April 19, 2010  
**Frances Green**

April 20, 2010  
**Valborg Fure**

## From our pastors . . .

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As we move into the long-awaited spring of this year, we do so with a renewed energy and commitment. The Challenge Team, established in January, 2010, has worked to “unbind” us from the heavy load of under which we have toiled; and to point the way to some new strategies for mission and ministry. The Church Council and the Church Council and the Budget Committee worked hard to present a balanced budget with which we could most effectively seek to accomplish the work laid before us. And the Council has now received and approved the report from the Strategic Planning Committee.

At this juncture, we are ready to assemble a call committee, and go about the business of searching for the next Senior Pastor for St. John’s Lutheran Church. How will this all unfold? According to the church constitution: **C13.05.** *“When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a **Call Committee** of no more than nine voting members of this congregation, with the number to be determined by the Congregation Council, shall be elected by this congregation at a meeting called for that purpose. The nominating committee shall present nominees to this congregation at least ten days in advance of the meeting. Nominations from members of this congregation, which have the approval of the nominee, may be received in writing at least ten days prior to the meeting at which the call committee shall be elected. The term of office shall terminate at the installation of the newly installed pastor.”*

The nominating committee, in concert with the council, will assemble a slate of candidates for the committee, respecting the demographics of the congregation (i.e. ages, gender, etc.). Anyone interested in serving should contact President Carrie Duba, or leave their name with the Church Office. The final slate will be determined by the afore-mentioned process.

The call committee, using the information gathered from the congregation by the strategic planning committee, will fill out the Congregational Mission Site Profile. This document will help potential candidates get a feel for St. John’s, Northfield, and the surrounding area. It will also indicate the types of skills and abilities desired in a candidate. Finally, it will indicate the direction in which this congregation is moving.

After the Mission Site Profile is returned to the Southeastern Minnesota Synod office, candidates will be matched, according to the profile, and names will be given to the call committee for consideration. Names for the call process can be generated in a number of ways. Our synod ministers have a list of candidates who are available, and might fit the criteria. Also, pastors, seeing the opening at St. John’s, may

ask to be nominated. In addition, names may be received from members of the congregation as possible candidates.

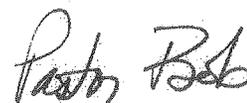
After an initial batch of names are received, the call committee will need to review each and determine the ones desired for interview. Following the first round of interviews, decisions must be made on which, if any, of the candidates to move forward with. A typical process usually includes at least two full interviews and an opportunity for the call committee to experience the pastor preaching and leading worship.

When the process is completed, a candidate will be presented to the Congregation Council for approval. Following council approval, a congregational meeting is called during which the candidate is introduced (on paper, typically), and a vote is taken to call the candidate.

To give you a sense of time frame, it is not unusual for the call process, once the call committee goes to work, to take about 9 – 12 months. Since some of the work that the committee might first do has been accomplished by the strategic planning group, we might be on the shorter end of that time frame. And, honestly, much of the time frame, nowadays, relates to issues of mobility, spousal employment, etc. of the candidate.

The best thing for all to do in this time of waiting is to keep the entire process and our leadership, in your prayers. We move forward in confidence, and with great trust in our God.

Yours in Christ,



# News and Events

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## Spiritual Healing Weekend at St. John's

by Larry Christenson

St. John's Lutheran Church invites the Northfield community to attend services that will highlight "The Church's Ministry of Healing" on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Rev. Dick Beckmen will speak on the theme at both morning services on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8:30 and 10:45. Rev. Larry Christenson will speak at the evening service, 7:00 p.m., on the theme, "Spiritual Healing in an Age of Reason."

Personal ministry of blessing and prayer will be available following each service.

Why this emphasis on healing? In a word: *It's in the Word.* It's a biblical command.

When we read the Bible, is there doubt that Jesus intended His church to be a healing church? When He sent the twelve apostles out on their first mission, He "sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal" (Luke 9:2). At the end of His earthly life Jesus told His disciples that when they went out into the world they would do the works He had

done (John 14:12). The rest of the New Testament leaves no doubt that the apostles took Jesus at His word, in a simple, realistic way. They *did* the works of Jesus — including the works of healing.

The Order of St. Luke, an interdenominational fellowship encouraging the ministry of healing in the church, quietly reports many cases of answered prayers for healing.

The Sunday evening talk will underscore the theme, "Healing was never meant to be an option for the Christian Church. It is a commission from Christ."

"Is any among you sick: pray for them that they may be healed."  
(see James 5:14-15, Mark 16:18)



## Shared Ministry

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Thank you for returning your 2011 Time and Talent Sheets! If you haven't already done so there is still time to return them by bringing them to the church office.

Now that the majority of sheets have been returned I am entering the information into our database and will be creating lists of ministry teams for ministry coordinators. Coordinators can expect these lists in mailboxes soon.

The Time and Talent Sheets are a great way to let our ministry coordinators know what ministries you're interested in but Shared Ministry is also fluid. If you've decided there are ministries that you'd like to try that you didn't mark on your sheet, or if you've decided some ministries no longer fit your interests please just let me know.

Throughout the year you'll find additional ministry opportunities listed on the Shared

Ministry page in the service folder. These opportunities are typically ministries that have a particular need for a specific season or are new opportunities that were not included on the Time and Talent Sheet.

While the Time and Talent Sheet is a primary way of communicating your interests in ministry I am always willing to meet with you to talk about ways you can connect at St. John's through ministry or ideas you have for the ministries we do.

I look forward to another season of ministry with you!

**Regina Hassanally**  
Director of Shared Ministries  
[reginah@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:reginah@stjohns-elca.org)



# Music Life at St. John's

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## Performers needed for Sunday Morning Concert Series

The final concert to close out the season will feature our own youth vocalists and instrumentalists Sunday, May 8 at 9:45 in the Sanctuary. If you would like to perform, please contact Dan Fenn at 645-4429 ext. 58 or at [danieljfenn@gmail.com](mailto:danieljfenn@gmail.com). Open to 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders.



## Organ Recital for Holy Week

Dan Fenn will lead in a time of singing, reflection, and meditation in a program of organ works based on psalms and Lenten chorales. Music by J. S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Johannes Brahms, and Herbert Howells. Wednesday, April 20 at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Free and open to all.

## Spring Musical

Mark your calendars for the annual spring musical presented by our St. John's children's choirs. This year they will perform "The Tale of the Three Trees" by Tom Long and Alan Pote. Sunday, May 15 at 9:45 in St. John's Hall.

## Summer Musicians and Cantors Needed

If you would like to share your musical gifts with the congregation this summer by either serving as a cantor or providing vocal or instrumental music during offering and/or communion, please contact Dan Fenn for more information and to request a date.

# News and Events

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## Girlfriends Gathering Events!

### Bowling - April 11

Mark your calendars and plan to attend "Buck Night" at Jesse James Lanes on Monday, April 11, beginning at 8:00 p.m! Bowling is a buck, your shoe rental is a buck, and pop is only a buck! Buck off drinks and appetizers too!

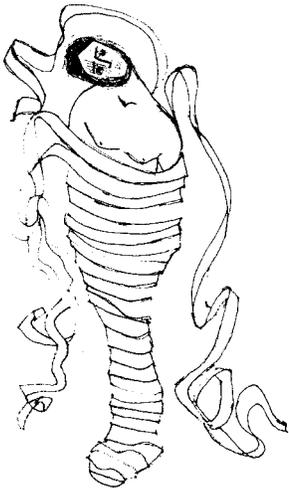
Bowling begins promptly at 8:00 p.m. on a first come/first serve basis until lanes are full. If you have some time, let's head to Applebee's after bowling for more snacks and fellowship!

### Movie Night - April 29

Movie Night is back by popular demand! On Friday, April 29, beginning at 7:00 p.m., Girlfriends Gathering will be hosting a movie night (location yet to be determined). We will provide the popcorn and ask that you bring your own beverage and a snack to share! The movie title and description will be posted at St. John's as event draws nearer.

## St John's is Being UNBOUND!

With all of the bad news in our world it is rewarding and inspiring to learn that God is working in our midst to unbind



St John's from its debt. Just six months ago St John's was bound up with \$1.6 million dollars in debt which required annual payments of \$160,000 from our annual operating budget. This debt was severely restricting our

mission as a congregation to bring God's word and healing to our troubled world. The Church Council, many other leaders, and our staff were

spending a major portion of their time and effort to deal with this debt. We were Bound!

On January 9, 2011 the Debt Reduction Appeal was launched at the Worship Service and the Adult Forum. The two year Appeal has a goal of raising \$800,000 to remove one of our two large mortgages. We noted that this \$800,000 debt could be paid over the next 16 years with a total cost of \$1.3 million, because of the interest cost. A gift of \$1,000 given now was equal to gifts of \$100 per year for the next 16 years. (\$1,000 given now is equal to giving \$1,600 over the next 16 years). Our first goal of raising \$400,000 by June 2011 would enable us to re-amortize the mortgage and reduce the 2011 mortgage payment by \$20,000. Thru the generous giving of our members, this goal was reached by the end of February!! Clearly God is working in our midst. In addition personal calls made to members were received with enthusiasm. Those of us working as leaders of the Appeal have received numerous positive comments from members that strongly support the goals of this Appeal. There is clearly a great deal of new energy at St John's that is developing as the result of the amazing participation in the Appeal.

As of the middle of March we are within about \$130,000 of attaining the two year Appeal goal of \$800,000. At this point 214 giving units have participated through gifts and pledges. In order to meet our total goal we need participation from everyone. This is God's Church and our congregation! We would ask that everyone give what they can so that the final goal can be achieved. You can give with a pledge, regular designated envelope gift, or a one time gift or some combination. No gift is too small or not important. As part of this congregation we can all participate as we are able based on our blessings at this time. We are all equal members in the eyes of God. We also participate by monetary gifts and by time and talent gifts. All of these are important and without them our community of St John's does not exist to carry out its mission.

We hope and pray that God's amazing miracle will continue so that the Appeal goal is met and more important that St John's will experience a new growth and excitement in working toward its mission.

Appeal Committee and Callers: *Char and Bill Carlson, David and Genevieve Quarberg, Dave Neuger, Don Sahling, Jim Enesvedt, John Quam, Bob Gelle, Mark Johnson, Will Brosz, Barbara Knaak, Terrence and Regina Hassanally, John and Pasty Ophaug, Scott Swanson, Katy Helgen, Marnie and Jim Thompson, Mike Berthelsen, Bob Iverson, David Legvold, Alan Marks*

### *March Actions*

#### **Baptisms**

**Lucas Terry VanSickle**, March 27, 2011; son of Adam and Sara VanSickle. Lucas' sponsors were Nichole Macias and Brad Kokke

#### **Funerals**

**Dana Anderson**, March 9, 2011  
**Donald Kimber**, March 17, 2011

# News and Events

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## From the Peace and Justice group . . .

*Report from the 23rd annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum sponsored by five Lutheran colleges hosted by Luther College, Decorah, Iowa March 4 and 5:*

Next meeting:  
Monday, April 18  
7:00 p.m.  
Fireside Room

Ways of Justice.  
Ways of Peace

Everyone is  
Welcome!

### Striving for Peace: Courage to Act

President Obama, the winner of the 2009 Prize and honored Laureate for this Forum, was invited but could not make it. Fortunately, the Irani 2003 Laureate, Shirin Ebadi—who had been unable to participate in the 2005 Forum honoring her, was able to participate.

Talk about 'Courage to Act!', Shirin has challenged the leadership of Iran ever since being fired from her position as a judge in Tehran after the 1979 revolution for being a woman. Rather than serve as a clerk in her former courtroom, she became a lawyer and advocated for human rights, taking on many controversial (and therefore dangerous) cases.

In 2000 Shirin was imprisoned and held in solitary confinement for 25 days under terrible conditions that are worse for political prisoners than for ordinary criminals. Solitary confinement, she believes, is a kind of torture. On her release she continued working for human rights, especially for women, which was considered subversive in spite of the fact that Iran had signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. When students asked her if she was afraid, she said, "Fear is an instinct—like hunger." Everyone is vulnerable to fear, yet people are ashamed to admit to being afraid. "Don't be afraid of being afraid," she challenged us all, "Learn how to overcome fear." Her strong religious faith gives her power and makes her ready to even give up her life to promote justice.

When asked what she had gained by challenging the government, Shirin stated her belief that any loss can be an introduction to a victory. She liked

being a judge and wanted to do something so that those who took her judgeship from her would regret it. It took awhile, but when her human rights work was recognized by the Nobel Peace Prize committee, the need for that work became known around the world. "I think some of my critics wished I was still a judge!" Her closing challenge was to work to protect, nourish what you have. "Democracy is like a flower—put it in a light place, tend it, water it to keep it living. You can't throw a bucket of water over it once a month. If neglected, it dies."

Shirin argues for a new interpretation of Islamic law in harmony with vital human rights of democracy, equality before the law, religious freedom and freedom of speech. Her vision and courage inspired hundreds of students and many older Lutherans.

In addition to plenary sessions, a number of programmed events considered ways individuals and groups could be involved. People-to-people programs—an 'unofficial policy dialogue focused on problem solving' or interactions between private citizens or groups of people outside formal governmental power structure were discussed theoretically and specifically. The work of the Nansen Dialogue Center offered a thorough consideration of methods, goals and specific situations, especially from the violence of the Balkan region. To learn more about the Center and how it has advanced peaceful resolutions and reconciliation, go to [www.nansen-dialogue.net](http://www.nansen-dialogue.net).

# Serving on Sundays in April

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## *Acolytes*

- April 3** (8:30) Nicholas Gonnerman, Nicholas Pelletier; (10:45) Brandon Kimber, Hunter Redfield  
**April 10** (8:30) Ryan Buck, Ian Iverson; (10:45) Hunter Redfield  
**April 17** (8:30) Amanda Nelson, Olivia Riggins  
**April 21** (7:00) Bjorn Bade  
**April 22** (7:00) Jimmy Rowley  
**April 24** (8:00) Andrew Dell, Bailey Dell, Jonah Berthelsen; (9:30) Michael Gasior, Timothy Gasior;

## *Communion preparers*

- April 3** Jamie and Doug Debner  
**April 10** David and Sue Hagen  
**April 17** Erik and Carol Hong  
**April 21** (noon) Gloria and Tom Porter; (6:30) LaVerne and Otto Reitz  
**April 24** (8:00) John and Carrie Duba; (9:30) Elden and Solveig Zempel; (11:00) Jill Enestvedt

## *Nursery*

- April 3** (8:20 a.m. - noon) Claire Weiss; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Kris Vatter  
**April 10** (8:20 a.m. - noon) Claire Weiss; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Amy Willkomm  
**April 17** (8:20 a.m. - noon) Claire Weiss; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Jenny Nystrom  
**April 24** Volunteers needed!

## *Ushers*

- April 3** (8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Loren Lee, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen; (10:45) Rae Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber  
**April 10** (8:30) Jim Enestvedt, Dan Franklin, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (10:45) Jonathan Norrie, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Todd Nichol, Kristin Nichol, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams  
**April 17** (8:30) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (10:45) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Todd Iverson, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary  
**April 21** (noon) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Loren Lee, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen; (6:30) Jonathan Norrie, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Todd Nichol, Kristin Nichol, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams  
**April 24** (8:00) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (9:30) Jim Enestvedt, Dan Franklin, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (11:00) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber

## St. Johns ELCA Scholarship

All St. John's students who will be attending an ELCA college this fall are eligible for a \$100 scholarship from the St. John's Lutheran Church Foundation. Your college will likely match the scholarship amount. This is a non-competitive scholarship. Students can request scholarship each year up to four years for each year he/she is a full time student an ELCA college. Applications must be submitted each year. Application forms, available in the Church Office, are due April 15.



## Interim Director of Youth Ministry Update

Members of Personnel, the Youth Ministry and Education Board, the Executive Committee, and staff met last month and will meet this month to consider applications for the interim Director of Youth Ministry (DYM) part-time position. The hope is to have the interim DYM on staff by the first of May. Contact one of the pastors or Marnie Thompson with questions or concerns.

## Palm Sunday Processional for All!

St. John's is trying something new this year - a congregation processional for Palm Sunday! If you wish to participate, please gather in the courtyard 5 minutes prior to the service to receive your palm.



The liturgy will begin in the courtyard and we will process in to the church. (There will be steps involved in the processional). Please come and participate as your are able!



## St. John's Suppers

Wednesday night supper just got a little easier! Come, share a meal! All are welcome, it's a fantastic time for fellowship for ALL ages!

Supper is served from 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

Wednesday, April 6

Chicken Dumpling  
Potato Chowder

Wednesday, April 13

Split Pea with Ham  
Split Pea without Ham

Wednesday April 20

Holy Week - No Meal

Wednesday, April 27

Ham  
Mashed Potatoes

Free will offering appreciated!

# Mission Outreach



## Adopt-A-Highway!

Volunteers are needed for the spring clean-up of the St. John's section of State Highway 246. Meet in the High School parking lot – across from the cemetery on Saturday, April 30 at 10:00 a.m. Wear comfortable but durable shoes. Safety vests and gloves will be provided along with water and a snack. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Sign up in the Commons or call the church office. Thank you for helping to take care of this small part of Gods creation.

## Celebrating 100 years of Lutheran ministry in the Central Diocese of Tanzania

2011 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Church in the Central Diocese of Tanzania. To celebrate the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, a companion synod to the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, is raising \$100,000. The money raised will help support the educational ministries of the Central Diocese, in particular, the training of secondary school teachers and nurses through the newly established Singida University. This gift will help bring hope and a brighter future for the people of the Central Diocese and for all the people of Central Tanzania, as well as be a sign of our partnership in ministry.

Last year, St. John's contributed \$1,000 toward this anniversary gift. The appeal ends on JUNE 30, but only \$1,500 has been raised so far. Individual gifts are welcome and needed to make the goal. To contribute, make checks out to the Southeastern MN Synod with "TZ 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" written on the memo line. Send checks to SEMS, 1001 14<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Ste. 300, Rochester, MN 55901. More information is available on the Mission bulletin board near the Church Office.

## Service of renewal set for April 12

A service of inspiration and renewal for caregivers, featuring music, scripture and guided meditation led by Henry Emmons, MD, will be Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church in Northfield..

Called "Restore, Replenish, Renew," this service is designed for anyone who is providing care or services to persons in need. This includes family caregivers, nurses, physicians, healthcare workers, therapists, clergy, volunteers and others. This year's service will include reflective music, scripture and prayer, the traditional anointing of the hands, as well as Native American drumming and guided meditation.

Following the service there will be refreshments and time for fellowship.

Northfield Retirement Community, Northfield Hospital & Clinics, and Three Links Care Center are sponsoring the service.

## A Great Response

*Thank you* to the 56 people participating in the Lenten Book Conversations.

*Thank you* to the individuals who are leading the six discussion groups.

*Thank you* to the Adult Ministry and Education Board for picking up a portion of the cost of the each book.

*The Small Group Ministry Team*



Mission Statement:

**TO MOBILIZE WOMEN TO ACT BOLDLY  
ON THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST**

Lutheran Woman Today Bible study theme for 2010-2011 is

**“The People of God:**

**Unity in the Midst of Diversity”**

Amos 3:3 “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”

For newsletters and information: [www.semnsynod.org](http://www.semnsynod.org) and [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, April 2nd, 12 noon**—Salad luncheon with women from Trinity Lutheran Church as our guests. Please bring a salad to share. Gina Little from Ruth’s House of Hope, Inc., in Faribault will be our guest speaker. Here’s a little about Ruth’s House (from their web site, [www.ruthshousemn.org](http://www.ruthshousemn.org)):

Ruth’s House of Hope, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded in Faribault, Minnesota in 2003. Ruth’s House manages a nine-unit shelter and transitional housing facility, along with seven off-site permanent housing units, for women and children in transition. Ruth’s House provides affordable housing in a safe, supportive and healing environment to help women and families on their way to a new beginning.

Many Ruth’s House residents have been homeless, and/or they may be in recovery from violence, addiction, health challenges and other issues. Primarily Ruth’s House serves women in the Rice County area, but we have served individuals from across Minnesota and beyond.

Women interested in joining a circle, please contact Barbara Walters (663-1055 or [waltersb2@gmail.com](mailto:waltersb2@gmail.com)). This year’s study leader for St. John’s WELCA is Pastor Bev Lundeen (507-301-3088).

For a subscription to the LWT magazine, please email: [subscriptions@augsburgfortress.org](mailto:subscriptions@augsburgfortress.org) or ask one of the circle leaders for information.

Circle Bible Study Regular Meeting Times each month are the second Wednesday or Thursday after the first Thursday of each month at the times below:

**Lydia** – Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. Marilyn Boschee and Judy Smith, Leaders

**Sarah** – Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. Char Nelson, Leader

**Martha/Claudia** – Thursday, 9:30 a.m. at Parkview West; Eulalie Smestad and Joyce Schrader, Leaders

**Elizabeth** – Thursday, 1:30 p.m. Darlene Hand and Iva Dodson, Leaders

**Abigail/Rebecca** – Thursday, 2:00 p.m. at Parkview West, Gert Brosz, Leader

**Mary** – Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Rachel Stark, Leader

**Women’s Breakfast Group** - second Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in Fireside Room, Kathy Mellstrom, Leader

**Please submit items for this information page to Ruth Smestad Anglin: [ranglin@weststartv.com](mailto:ranglin@weststartv.com) or (507) 301-4744**

Tuesday, April 5th, 9:30 a.m. — Knitters, Library  
Saturday, April 9th, 8:30 a.m. — Women’s Breakfast Group, Fireside room  
Monday, April 11th, 12 noon — Bible study leaders, Fireside room  
Wednesday and Thursday, April 13th and 14th—Circles meet  
Monday, April 18th, 9:00 a.m. — Quilting prep  
Tuesday, April 19th, 9:30 a.m. — Knitters, library  
Thursday, April 21st, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. — Quilting  
Thursday, April 28th, 9:30 a.m. — Executive board meeting



# Small Groups Ministry

*For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.  
Matthew 18:20*

**Providing opportunities for fellowship, Bible study, health and wellness, faith in daily living, learning, and service.**

## **Connections**

Contact: Carol Schoen 645-6840

## **Everyone Has a Story**

Contact: Phil Eaves 645-4172

## **Gathered in the Word**

Contact: Pr. Johnson 645-4429

## **Grief Support**

Contact: Barbara Knaak 664-0444

## **Healing Prayer**

Contact: Dick Beckman 664-3882

## **Men's Breakfast Bible Study**

Contact: Dean Ostlie 645-2597

## **Men's Time Out**

Contact: Greg Kneser 663-0271

## **Peace and Justice**

Contact: Judith Stoutland 645-7842

## **Prayer and Praise**

Contact: Mary White 645-4783

## **Tuesday Noon Bible Study**

Contact: Pr. Bob or Pr. Mark 645-4429

## **Women of the ELCA Circles**

Contact: Barbara Walters 663-1055

## **Women of the ELCA Knitting**

Contact: Bobbie Maakestad 645-4397

## **Women's Bible Study at Parkview West**

Contact: Dick Dahlin 645-5978

## **Women of the ELCA Quilting**

Contact: Kathy Vang 645-4849

## **Women's Breakfast Group**

Contact: Kathy Mellstrom 663-1451

## **Community...It's Who We Are**

*By Barbara Eaves*

While growing up, two of my favorite activities were ice skating in the winter and swimming in the summer. The neighborhood skating rink across the street from my house and the many lakes throughout my hometown made these activities very accessible. Also, my family spent a couple of weeks each summer at a lake resort. Water, whether liquid or solid, was pleasant and fun.

In contrast to these happy memories, we were recently reminded of the destructive forces of water as we learned of another deadly tsunami, this time in Japan, which is wreaking its havoc and has claimed the lives of thousands of people. Water, the stuff of life without which we cannot live and for which many battles have been and are being waged, also can snuff out life in an instant.

While writing this article in mid-March, the daily news and weather forecasts are predicting significant spring floods as the record-breaking snow accumulations melt. People who live in communities along waterways and lakes fed by them, are preparing and bracing for the onslaught of floods.

Last year, when Northfield experienced heavy flooding of the Cannon River, instant community was formed as people came to help with the sand-bagging effort. Some brought the sacks; some held the sacks open while others filled them; some tied the filled bags and others carried them to destinations; and some people brought coffee and refreshments. The volunteers who gathered were many and varied: students, the working and the retired, men and women, even young children. I recall one man who had a small child on his back and another who wanted his youngster to be part of the activity in order to learn the importance of helping one another in time of need. And this year, there will probably be another call for community action to help hold back the rising waters.

Community is a human need. We were not created to live in isolation. Not only does community serve and support us in difficult times, it also strengthens us during calm days, gives us a sense of belonging and oneness so we are more than a name on a roster, provides meaning and purpose to direct our days and helps us to know and better understand one another. Small groups happen—in our church, community and our world. See you there!

*"...let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another." Hebrews 10:24-25*

*If you are interested in leading a small group or have a suggestion for a new small group please contact a member of the Small*

*Group Leadership Team:*

Sandi Gerdes 645-2290,  
[sandi@laurabaker.org](mailto:sandi@laurabaker.org)

Cheryl Buck, 663-9056,  
[cbuck@charter.net](mailto:cbuck@charter.net)

Barb Eaves, 645-4172,  
[pbeaves@hotmail.com](mailto:pbeaves@hotmail.com)

Mark Johnson, 645-4429  
[mjohnson@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:mjohnson@stjohns-elca.org)

# Adult Ministry and Education

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## Art, Poetry and Faith presentations this month in St. John's Forum

This month's St. John's Forum will feature presentations on art, poetry and faith. On April 3, John Maakestad will present "By their works will you know them." John writes, "Art can be defined as 'the framing of a revelation in a ritual. Rituals are verbs: making, doing, dancing, singing, drawing, acting, filming, color crayoning...art can [also] be defined as 'A structure of values inherent in a form. Art works contribute delight and richness to our lives. More than the gift of the beautiful, art works reveal for our understanding the wiring diagram of a society, a culture, ourselves, and our beliefs. With a focus on the art of the Christian religion examples from architecture, painting, and sculpture will be discussed as "mirror and lamp."

Following upon last year's Forum presentations by Pamela Schwandt and Lowell Johnson, this month there will be two more presentations on poetry.

On April 10, Mark Gleason will present "Like Every Grain of Sand: A Lenten Journey with Bob Dylan." While Dylan may downplay his career as merely that of a "song and dance man," he has endured as a major cultural influence and the most popular poet of his time. Throughout his six-decade career, and especially in his evangelical period, Bob Dylan has challenged millions of people to reflect on their lives, reject false values, seek justice, and return to God. He's still at it. In 2007, Dylan performed for World Youth Day in Sydney, with Benedict XVI delivering the homily on "Blowin'

in the Wind." In 2009 he recorded a Christmas album, with all proceeds going to charity.

On April 17, Paula Carlson will present "Little Girls in Church: A Lenten Journey with Kathleen Norris." Norris' prose memoir *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography* (1993) made her famous, but she began her writing career as a poet, and collections of her poems continue to be published in years between the better-known prose works *The Cloister Walk*, *Amazing Grace*, *The Virgin of Bennington*, and *Acedia & Me*. In her poems, Norris explores in miniature the spiritual geography she charts in her prose. At the Forum, we'll look in particular at Norris's collections *Little Girls in Church* (1995) and *Journey* (2001).

St. John's Forum is presented on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in St. John's Hall. All are welcome.

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## Education Opportunities for Adults on Sunday Mornings

Education Hour is at 9:45 a.m. Coffee is in the Commons between services.

The St. John's Forum meets in St. John's Hall between services.

**Apr. 3:** *St. John's Forum: "By their Works Will you Know Them"*, an illustrated slide presentation by John Maakestad.

**Apr. 10:** *St. John's Forum: "Like Every Grain of Sand: A Lenten Journey with Bob Dylan"*, presented by Mark Gleason.

*New Member Connections, Fireside Room*

**Apr. 17:** *St. John's Forum: "Little Girls in Church: A Lenten Journey with Kathleen Norris"*, presented by Paula Carlson.

*New Member Session: Shared Ministry, Fireside Room*

**Apr. 24:** *Easter Breakfast!* No St. John's Forum

### **Important Dates to Remember!**

#### **Sunday School Schedule**

April 3 No Sunday School – *Spring Break*  
April 10 Sunday School  
April 17 Sunday School – *Palm Sunday*  
April 24 No Sunday School - *Easter*

#### **Lenten Soup Suppers**

Begins at 5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall  
Lenten Services at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Movie Morning, Monday, April 4**

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. (see article on back cover)

#### **Eggciting Easter Egg Hunt**

Saturday, April 23, 9:30 a.m.

#### **Third Grade CAT Retreat**

Wednesday, April 27, 4:45 – 6:00 p.m., Youth Room

### **Palm Sunday Processional**

Children are welcome to participate in the Palm Sunday processional on Sunday, April 17. All will gather in the courtyard five minutes prior to the service to receive palms. ALL are invited to participate in this processional!

### **Eggciting Easter Egg Hunt**

Children up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to come and participate in the annual St. John's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 23 at 9:30 a.m.



Children will meet in the Commons at St. John's and will be separated by age groups for the hunt. Remember to bring a basket or bag for collecting eggs!

**Parents:** We need individually wrapped candy and small items to fill the eggs. Donations can be dropped off in the office or put in the basket at the Welcome Center. Thanks so much!

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade CAT Retreat**

The last retreat for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade CAT this year is Wednesday, April 27 from 4:45 – 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room at St. John's. The topic is The Sacrament of Communion.

### **VBS and "On the Road" – Summer 2011!**

This summer St. John's, along with Bethel and St. Peter's Lutheran churches and Emmaus Baptist church, will be offering a joint Vacation Bible School/Summer Camp experience for children age 3 – 4<sup>th</sup> grade the week of August 8– 11.

#### **"On the Road" Summer Camp**

**For kids completing Kindergarten – 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
August 8 - 11**

Good Earth Village, "On the Road!" will bring the fun of summer camp to Northfield. This 5-day program is filled with games, worship, crafts, Bible study and singing. Registration is through Good Earth Village. Campers can register on-line at [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org) or by completing a registration form available in the Commons. Since this is a community-based event please send your registration in early. Good Earth Village can accommodate about 125 campers.

#### **Vacation Bible School,**

**August 8 - 11 - for kids age 3 by 9/1/10 – kindergarten at St. John's**

VBS is a time for your kids to gather together as a community and grow in faith exploring connections with God, family, friends and others around the world.

Kindergarteners have the option of going to either VBS or "On the Road". The VBS program will be half days whereas "On the Road" is a full day experience. You decide which camp works best for your child!

Registration forms available in April in the main office and in the Commons! Come join the adventure!

# YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

## Middle School Sunday School

Grades 6-8

Sundays 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Middle School Sunday School meets in the Youth Room

April 3	Spring Break - No Sunday School
April 10	Session led by Terrence Hassanally
April 17	The Bible - Peggy Hanson
April 24	Easter Sunday - No Sunday School

## High School Sunday School

Grades 9-12

Sundays 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

High School Sunday School meets in Rm. 09

April 3	Spring Break - No Sunday School
April 10	Resurrection - Judge Beckers
April 17	Betrayal - Judge Beckers
April 24	Easter Sunday - No Sunday School

## Who's Going to Camp/Mission Trips This Summer?

It's not too late to sign up for summer camps or the Chicago Mission Trip! Here's a list of St. John's kids attending:

**Settlers' Camp (grades 2 and 3):** Parker Aman

**Green Lake/Shores of St. Andrew (grades 3-8):** Parker Aman, James Bull, Cole Little, Logan Matson, Aidan Nutt, Isaac Riggins, Adrianna Sanchez, Rikka Zillmer, Bailey Dell, Sydnee Eddy, Elizabeth Evenson, Dylan Matson, Nicholas Pelletier and Wylie Kneser.

**Chicago Mission Trip (grades 9-12):** Bjorn Bade, Katie Bull, Mike DeCramer, Grant Erickson, Zach Evenson, Amelia Kneser, Alexa Nutt, Rebecca Storlie, and Millie Tjaden.

## Thank you!

Youth and children helped serve the Lenten soup supper on Wednesday, March 16. \$300 was raised beyond the cost of the meal and will be used to offset the cost of summer camps for our youth. Thanks everyone!

## Middle School Lock-In

This month's Middle School Event is an overnight lock-in on Friday, April 15. Members of St. Olaf Colleges Christian Outreach will be here to lead games, Bible study, worship, and other activities. Sign up on the Youth Board in the Commons (upstairs). Friends are welcome. All youth need to have a completed health form on file at church. Parent chaperones are needed - contact Peggy Dell if you can help.

## High School Event - TBA

This month's high school event is still being planned - stay tuned to your e-mail, regular mail, and Facebook for the details.

## Confirmation Resumes after Easter

The regular confirmation class schedule resumes on April 27. Seventh and Eighth Grade meet in Fellowship Hall at 6:15 p.m. 9<sup>th</sup> Grade meets at 6:30 in the Fireside Room.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade CAT

6<sup>th</sup> Grade CAT meets Wednesday, May 4 from 5:45 - 6:30 p.m. We'll share a meal of pizza and then be creating a class prayer as we end our year-long study of prayer and the Lord's Prayer. Meets in Room 9, downstairs.

**Pastors**

*Bob Iverson  
Mark Johnson  
John Quam*

**Building Manager**

*Rich Kleeberger*

**Children's Ministry**

*Julie Brehmer*

**Music Ministry**

*Daniel Fenn*

**Music Staff**

*Tyler Forsythe - Alleluia  
Cathy Rodland - Jubilate  
Ruth Legvold - Laudate  
Jo Dahlin - Rejoice Ringers*

**Office Manager**

*Stephanie Aman*

**Parish Nurse**

*Lynette Marks*

**Shared Ministry**

*Regina Hassanally*

**Congregation President**

*Carrie Duba*



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**Come in your PJs to  
Movie Morning!**

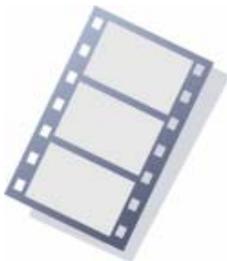
Kids 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger are invited to come in their pajamas to movie morning at St. John's! Come for breakfast and stay to watch the movie, "Tangled".

**Where:** The Commons for Breakfast,  
Movie in St. John's Theater

**When:** Monday, April 4 – **NO SCHOOL DAY!**

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Children younger than kindergarten need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or call Julie at 645-4429, ext. 25. Parent volunteers are welcomed!



**Spring Cleaning -  
Saturday, April 9!**

On Saturday, April 9, the Board of Building and Grounds will sponsor a "Deep Cleaning" Day at St. John's.



From 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. we are looking for folks to do some the scrubbing and rubbing that just doesn't get done during the course of weekly cleaning.

Cleaning supplies will be available, but additional mops, brooms and rags would be appreciated. Area sign-ups are available in the Commons. Come, and help us get spruced up for Easter!

